

**Predation on Mouse by Centipede.**—W. H. Butler and B. Y. Main (*W.A. Nat.*, 7, 1959: 52) refer to instances of frogs being preyed on by spiders. Another example of the phenomenon of a terrestrial vertebrate being preyed on by an invertebrate was reported to us by Mr. Ashburton H. Clark, fisheries inspector at Onslow. Mr. Clark wrote that in November 1960 a Public Works Department employee found a mouse being attacked by a centipede. The discovery was made when the employee lifted a large piece of timber and the centipede and the mouse were found struggling underneath it. Mr. Clark added that as far as could be observed, the mouse was the ordinary grey domestic species (*Mus musculus*) and of medium size. The centipede was described as being one common in those parts, with a pale bottle-green body and a reddish head. It was about 6½ in. long. When first seen the centipede was wrapped around the body of the mouse and had its



Centipede devouring a mouse.

jaws clamped into the mouse's spine near the back of its neck. At this stage the mouse was still struggling.

Later the centipede shifted its hold so that it lay along the spine of the mouse with some of its legs around the tail and hind quarters. The forepart of the centipede lay over the shoulder and neck of the mouse and the centipede had torn a hole in the throat and was busy devouring the flesh. One of the employees pushed a small stick, about the size of a pencil, between the centipede and the mouse and carried the two of them to the front of the goods shed for exhibition. This did not interfere, Mr. Clark said, in any way with the centipede, which continued its meal quite oblivious of what was going on around it. The two creatures were then photographed and, so far as Mr. Clark was aware, no further observations were made. The photograph is here reproduced.

—H. B. SHUGG, Fisheries Department.